

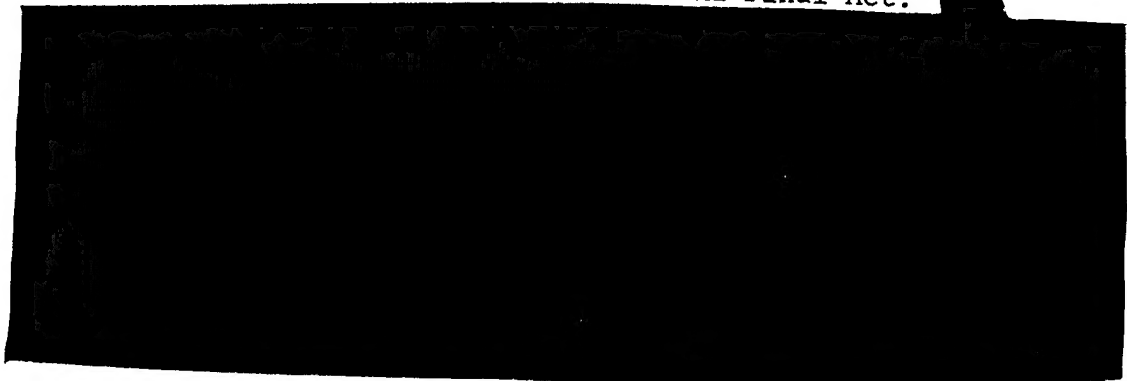
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USSR-EUROPE: CSCE Conference Resumes

The CSCE review conference reconvenes in Madrid today in a charged atmosphere created by events in Poland.

The Soviets and their East European allies are aware that they will be confronted by Western Foreign Ministers intent on focusing on Polish and Soviet violations of the spirit and provisions of the Helsinki Final Act.



Comment: East European delegations are likely to exercise the procedural right to respond immediately today to each Western statement with standard counter-accusations. The Soviets and their allies probably are not prepared, however, to bear the responsibility for a collapse of the meeting and will work to demonstrate that they remain committed to "detente."

Current circumstances indicate that the East probably will not achieve its primary goal of obtaining agreement to convene a European disarmament conference. Eastern delegations nevertheless will continue to court West European opinion by maintaining that the neutral and nonaligned draft document is a useful basis for further negotiation. As a goodwill gesture, the Soviets may offer an initiative on security issues, probably a concession to the West's position regarding the zone of application for so-called military confidence- and security-building measures.

Human rights questions, however, will continue to be a stumblingblock. The Polish crisis and its ramifications will reinforce Soviet resistance to Western proposals, including those for meetings of human rights experts and for an end to jamming of radiobroadcasts into Eastern Europe.

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